been conducted into the matter and if so, what action Government have taken on the basis of the Inquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, *PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS* AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A case has been registered by the CBI against Lt. General (Retd.) Nirmal Puri and Shri Vinod Kumar Khanna, Chairman, Concord International (P) Ltd. New Delhi for offence u/s 120-B IPC read with Section 3/5 of the Official Secrets Act, 1923 and substantive offences u/s 3/5 of the official Secrets Act, 1923 for conspiracy to obtain/possess secret unpublished official information relating to procurement/use of arms and equipment in Indian Army during the period 1984-87.

(c) The investigation of the case is in progress.

Nationalisation of scheduled banks

2508. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to nationalise some more scheduled banks in the near future; and

(b) if so, what are the names of such banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

Arrests of a retired Brigadier and a scientist

2509. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:
SHRI M. KADHARSHA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a retired Brigadier of the Indian Army and a Government scientist have recently been arrested for their involvement in selling defence secrets to certain foreign countries; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating their modus operandi, the nature of their espionage activities and their contacts, if any, identified within and outside the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Brig. R.S. Diol (promoted ad-hoc as Major General in March, 1988 and retired on 30.6.1988) and Dr. N.W. Nerurkar, Adviser in the Department of Electronics were arrested by the C.B.I. on 10th & 11th November respectively under Official Secrets Act, 1923 for obtaining/possessing and communicating official secret document/information pertaining to the defence of the country to unauthorised persons/parties for being sent abroad.

(b) The cases are under investigation.

Export of iron ore

2510. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that precious raw material in the form of iron ore is being exported every year

to the industrially developed countries at a throw-away price;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to stop the export of iron ore and to process the same within the country so that only finished products are sold to other countries; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) Iron Ore is being exported by Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation of India Limited (MMTC), Kudermukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL) and Goan exporters at international prices.

(c) and (d) India's iron ore reserves are estimated to be over 17 billion tonnes, and only about 30 million tonnes, including value added iron ore concentrates and pellets are exported annually. Conversion of iron ore at present being exported into value added products for export requires massive investment which can be undertaken only at the cost of other sectors of the economy. These exports are viewed in the national perspective, *i.e.* earning of foreign exchange, employment potential particularly in backward areas, utilization of infrastructural facilities as also development of overall economy.

Noting down of numbers of autorickshaws/taxis at Indira Gandhi International Airport

2511. SHRI ASHIS SEN:
SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any system of noting down the numbers of the autorickshaws/taxis hired from Indira Gandhi International Airport; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for which the number of the authorickshaw hired by two foreigners on June 8, 1988 between 9.15 p.m. and 9.25 p.m. could not be traced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) There is no authorickshaw stand operating from Indira Gandhi International Airport. The numbers of such vehicles hired by passengers are not recorded. However, taxi numbers are recorded with time of departure at both the terminals of Indira Gandhi International Airport I & II.

(b) Does not arise.

Memorandum of political parties of Manipur

2512. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:
SHRI E. BALANANDAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any memorandum from different political parties of Manipur; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the said memorandum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) A memorandum from opposition political parties of Manipur addressed to the Prime Minister of India was forwarded by S/Shri Basudev Acharia, Indrajit Gupta, Madhu Dandavate and Jaipal Reddy on 11th April, 1988. The main demands in the memorandum are: